

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 ERDA-07 ACDA-10 OES-06 AID-05 EB-07

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R 180829Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7210

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 8628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, PFOR

SUBJ: AZIZ AHMED'S ASSESSMENT OF PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN
RELATIONS

SUMMARY: IN A RARE 40 MINUTE TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE ON
AUGUST 17, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED REVIEWED PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS IN A
GENERALLY POSITIVE VEIN. HE SPOKE ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF
ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT OF KASHMIR DISPUTE, WAS PARTICULARLY
POSITIVE ABOUT THE "DRAMATIC TURN" IN PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS
WITH AFGHANISTAN, CONFIDENT ABOUT PAKISTAN- AMERICAN TIES,
AND HOPEFUL IN REGARD TO GROWING TIES BETWEEN PAKISTAN
AND BANGLADESH. END SUMMARY.

1. AZIZ AHMED REITERATED STANDARD GOP LINE THAT ONLY
ISSUE THAT REMAINS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN INDIAN AND PAKISTAN
IS KASHMIR. HE REPEATED PAKISTAN'S CALL FOR SETTLEMENT
OF THIS ISSUE ON THE BASIS OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETER-
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MINATION. PAKISTAN AND INDIA HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ELIMINATING

ALL OTHER OBSTACLES IMPEDING HARMONIOUS RELATIONS, BUT HE COULD REPORT NO PROGRESS TOWARD INDO-PAKISTANI NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING KASHMIR. INSTEAD, HE SAID THAT PAKISTAN WOULD AWAIT A MOMENT " MOST FAVORABLE" FOR DISCUSSIONS.

2. WITH AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENT DAOUD'S VISIT ONLY DAYS AWAY, AZIZ AHMED WAS PARTICULARLY POSITIVE ABOUT PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS. HE SET THE TONE FOR THE VISIT BY STATING THE GOP LOOKS FORWARD TO THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE AFGHANS. HE POINTED TO " VERY CONSIDERABLE" PROGRESS THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS HAD ACHIEVED. HE ALSO NOTED BOTH COUNTRIES DESIRED TO ESTABLISH A FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP AND TO SETTLE THEIR OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. HE TOLD NEWSMEN OF HIS HOPE THAT DAOUD'S VISIT WOULD FURTHER STIMULATE THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION.

3. THE MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT OF CONTINUING GOODWILL BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PAKISTAN. HE DESCRIBED U.S. PAK TIES AS " VERY GOOD" AND REMARKED THAT THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO A YEAR AGO WAS A POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT WAS NOT AN " EASY ACHIEVEMENT." IN REPLY TO QUESTION HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT PAKISTAN DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY DELAY IN GOING AHEAD WITH ITS PURCHASE OF A FRENCH NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT.

4. HE DESCRIBED RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AS " GOOD", AND MUCH IMPROVED FROM THE LATE 60S. AZIZ AHMED ALSO SPOKE OF PAKISTAN'S " CORDIAL AND GROWING" RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH AS A " FACTOR OF STABILITY " IN SOUTH ASIA RATHER THAN AS BEING DIRECTED AGAINST ANY COUNTRY. HE DESCRIBED DIPLOMATIC, POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION LINKS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH, AS WELL AS AIR AND SEA TRAVEL AND TRADE AS THE SINEWS OF A DURABLE RELATIONSHIP. BYROAD

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